

Application Serial No. 09/607,375

REMARKS

The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Jackson for her careful review of this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-25 have been rejected. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1, 5, 7-8, 10, 12-13, and 16-25 have been cancelled and Claims 2-4, 6, 9, 11, 14-15, and 26-33 are pending in this application.

The allowed independent claims are Claims 3 and 6. Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 5, and 7-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,510,523 to Perlman (hereinafter, the "Perlman reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,656 to Gleichauf (hereinafter, the "Gleichauf reference"). The Applicants respectfully offer remarks to traverse these pending rejections.

Independent Claims 3 and 6

The Examiner has already indicated that independent Claims 3 and 6 are allowable over the Perlman and Gleichauf references. The Applicants have cancelled the rejected independent claims in this application. Further, the Applicants have amended several dependent claims, where appropriate, so that the dependent claims now refer to allowed independent Claims 3 and 6. The Applicants also have drafted new dependent claims 26-33 that also reference the allowed independent claims and that further define the invention.

The Applicants note that the independent claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The Applicants may file continuation applications to pursue these cancelled independent claims.

Because the Applicants have cancelled all of the rejected independent claims, the Examiner's arguments with respect to the Perlman and Gleichauf references have been rendered moot. Reconsideration and an early notice of allowance for the current application are respectfully requested.

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Request for Consideration of Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 12, 2005


The Applicants request the Examiner to consider the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) and its corresponding PTO-1449 forms that were filed on August 12, 2005. Because the IDS was mailed after the Non-final Office Action of July 29, 2005, the Applicants' authorized the Commissioner to charge the undersigned's deposit account the requisite fee of \$180.00.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on July 29, 2005. The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Jackson for the consideration of these remarks. The Applicants have submitted remarks to traverse the rejections of Claims 1-2, 5, and 7-25. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such Action is hereby courteously solicited.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 404.572.2884.

Respectfully submitted,


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October 28, 2005

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K&S Docket: 05456-105004